

From: [News and Information about water quality from the Department of Ecology](#)
To: ECOLOGY-WATER-QUALITY-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV
Subject: Policy Forum update ~ New Department of Ecology report: "An Assessment of the Chlorinated Pesticide Background in Washington State Freshwater Fish and Implications for 303(d) Listings"
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On January 30, 2013, the Department of Ecology (Ecology) published a report on chlorinated pesticides found in Washington State freshwater fish. In 2010 and 2011, Ecology collected fish tissue samples from lakes across Washington State and analyzed the samples for 29 chlorinated pesticides. The data were needed to help prioritize 303(d)-listed waterbodies for development of water cleanup plans and support revisions to the water quality standards for chlorinated pesticides.

What does this report say?

This report evaluates background (i.e. areas with no significant source of contaminants other than atmospheric deposition) concentrations of chlorinated pesticides in freshwater areas of Washington. It also considers how different fish consumption rate choices made in human health-based criteria calculations would affect 303(d) listings using Fish Tissue Equivalent Concentrations (FTEC). Chlorinated pesticide criteria were re-calculated for a variety of fish consumption rates, ranging from 6.5 grams per day to 250 grams per day.

How does this study affect Ecology's current human health criteria rule-making?

Ecology has begun formal rule-making activities to adopt new human health water quality standards for toxics that will include updated assumptions about how much fish Washington residents eat. Washington's current human health criteria are based on Washington residents eating 6.5 grams per day.

This report, along with other information on toxic chemical levels in freshwater areas of Washington, will be discussed at the next Policy Forum meeting. Ecology is hosting the third Policy Forum meeting on Friday, February 8, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. (PST). More information on the upcoming Policy Forum meeting is available at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/hhcpolicyforum.html>.

How can I find more information on this report?

This report is available on the Department of Ecology's website at <https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/SummaryPages/1303007.html>

Ecology contacts for more information about the report:

Dale Norton

Environmental Assessment Program
Phone: 360-407-6765
Email: Dale.Norton@ecy.wa.gov

Art Johnson

Environmental Assessment Program
Phone: 360 407-6766
Email: Art.Johnson@ecy.wa.gov